

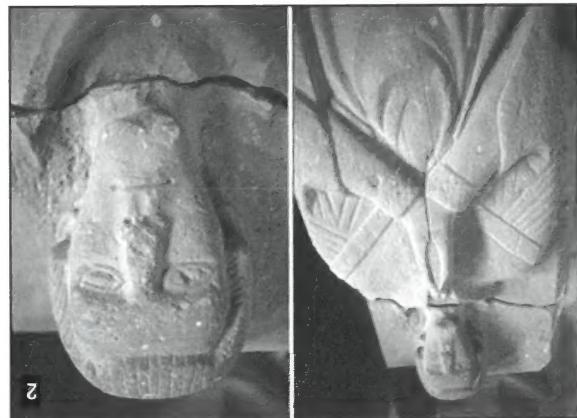


At some time around the first week of May 2012 a small memorial was taken from St Michael's Church, Castle Frome (3). Herefordshire. I had much provided by the police.

Already detached but lay with the rest of the effigy in the grade one listed building until unknown offenders stole it. The item is 700 years old and has significant historical and community value. Our picture is

During the first two weeks of April 2012 part of a stone effigy to Robert De Wakering was stolen from All Saints church Newland (2), near Coleford, Gloucestershire, a church which he founded in the thirteenth century. The head of the monument was carved but obviously it means a lot to the people who frequent this church. They are extremely upset said: It is impossible to put a value on the stone carving but it means a lot to the people who frequent this church. It is six inches in size. A police spokesman nine inches by six inches holding a knife.

In March the extreme left hand panel from the fourteenth-century alabaster reredos was stolen from St Peter's Church in Dryton (1), near Abingdon. The panel depicts the Annunciation and measures approximately 14in by 7in. Church warden Valerie Cross said: I think we're all in a state of shock. We're very upset by it. The panels were discovered in the church grounds in 1814. It is believed they had been buried to prevent them being destroyed. This important reredos has often been illustrated in books on church architecture and fittings. Our image is by Martin Beck, by kind permission: you can find other images by him on www.flickr.com.



Heritage thefts from churches

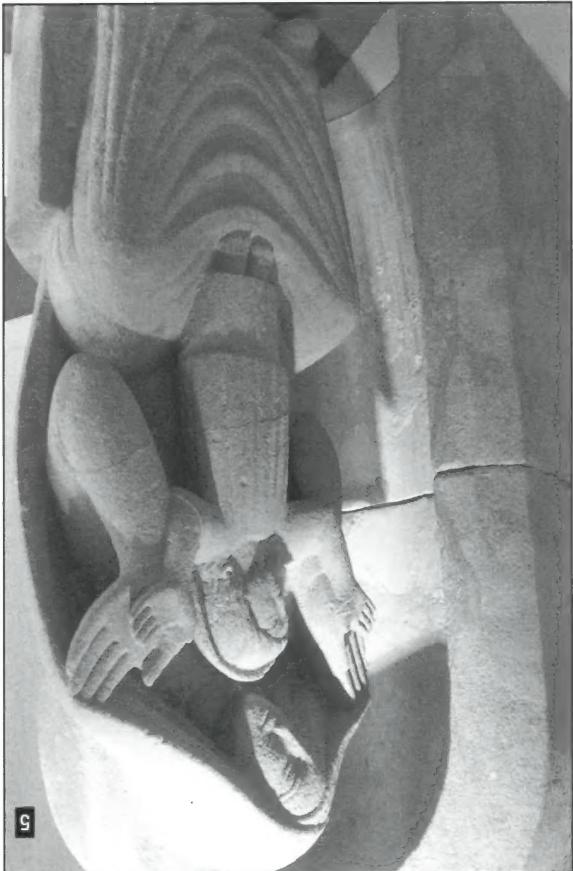
Local Environmental Health Authority had to be called in after some of the church's helpers had fallen ill. Following the work on the roof being complete, a clean-up operation, which cost thousands of pounds and took a specialist team of five people two days to complete once was finished, gathered 13kg of bat droppings. Liz said: Nobody was allowed into the church unprotected as a result of the toxic aerosol which is created when old bat droppings are disturbed. My team of dedicated volunteers then followed on to polish wood and scrub stone. Further work will be required to restore the church to its former glory next summer. Jonathan Mortimer, a solicitor in Harrogate, helped the church in its campaign and said: We must all keep our fingers crossed that the limited licence issued by Natural England will be sufficient next spring when the bats return in greater numbers. Ashley Burgess, a member of the PC, said: I anticipate that this year we will not have to put up with being bombed by bats flying around the church during our carol service as we have experienced in previous years.

A North Yorkshire church plagued by bats finally reopened last Christmas. St Hilda's Church in Ellerburn (4) near Pickering (picture by Nigell Coates) was closed for several months after the congregation lost its battle with a long-term infestation of Natterer's bats, which have lived in the church for ten years. This was the first time in 1,000-year history that the church closed, but in September, following a lengthy campaign, it was granted a licence from Natural England to block up some of the access points which have been using to colonise the church. As a compromise hundreds of bats will continue to live in the roof of the church, but not in the church itself, and their activity will be monitored.

Churchwarden Liz Cowley said the bats finally bat droppings and sprayed with urine. She said the woodwork, artefacts, stone flooring slabs, pews, choir stalls, pulpit and font had all been damaged and the altar of the Saxon church had been covered with bat droppings and sprayed with urine. Liz Cowley said the bats finally bat droppings and sprayed with urine. She said the woodwork, artefacts, stone flooring slabs, pews, choir stalls, pulpit and font had all been damaged and the

Another matter about Bats





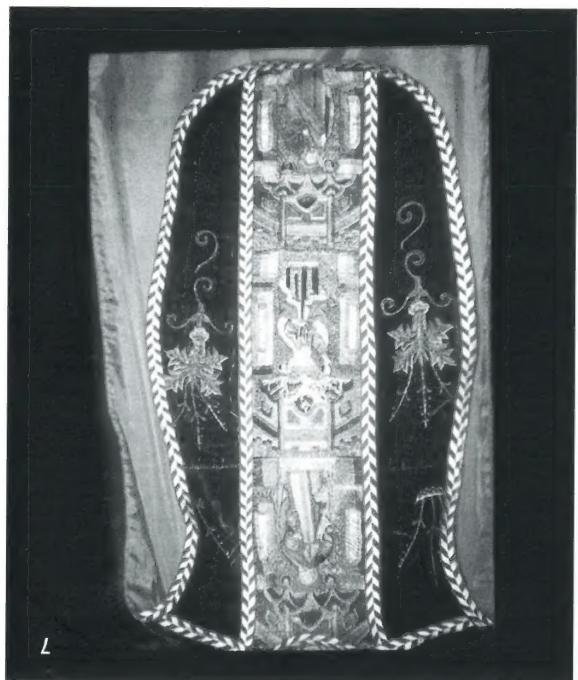
Sculpture finds a new home



This may give other congregations plagued by these protected mammals some heart in their desire to preserve their ancient buildings. In my own travels some of the worst examples I have found were at Stanford-on-Avon in Northamptonshire (with its priceless monuments and its Huntingtonshire, Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire, and Keston in Cambridgeshire). Regrettably there is a rare difference between century oakен cadaver effigy which has to be kept shrouded in polythene.



Father Kevin Knox-Lecky, of St Mary's Church, said: 'Since then, the Catholic Church has been working to find a suitable place for it to be displayed. It was left forgotten until the 1980s when it was moved to the new design the statue was moved to the church cemetery. Burdett's Madonna, as it was named, in with the new building to be done. Because it didn't fit make a larger building to be done. It was removed to by passers-by, but was removed to enable work to St Mary's church for 10 years where it could be seen sculptor, Eric Gill and was first placed in a niche at The statue was carved out of limestone by British Fr Francis Burdett for St Mary's church in the town. was commissioned in 1928 by Glastonbury priest, The Catholic statue of the Madonna and Child (5) decades has been re-housed at Glastonbury Abbey museum (to whom we are grateful for this image). A small sculpture which lay forgotten for several



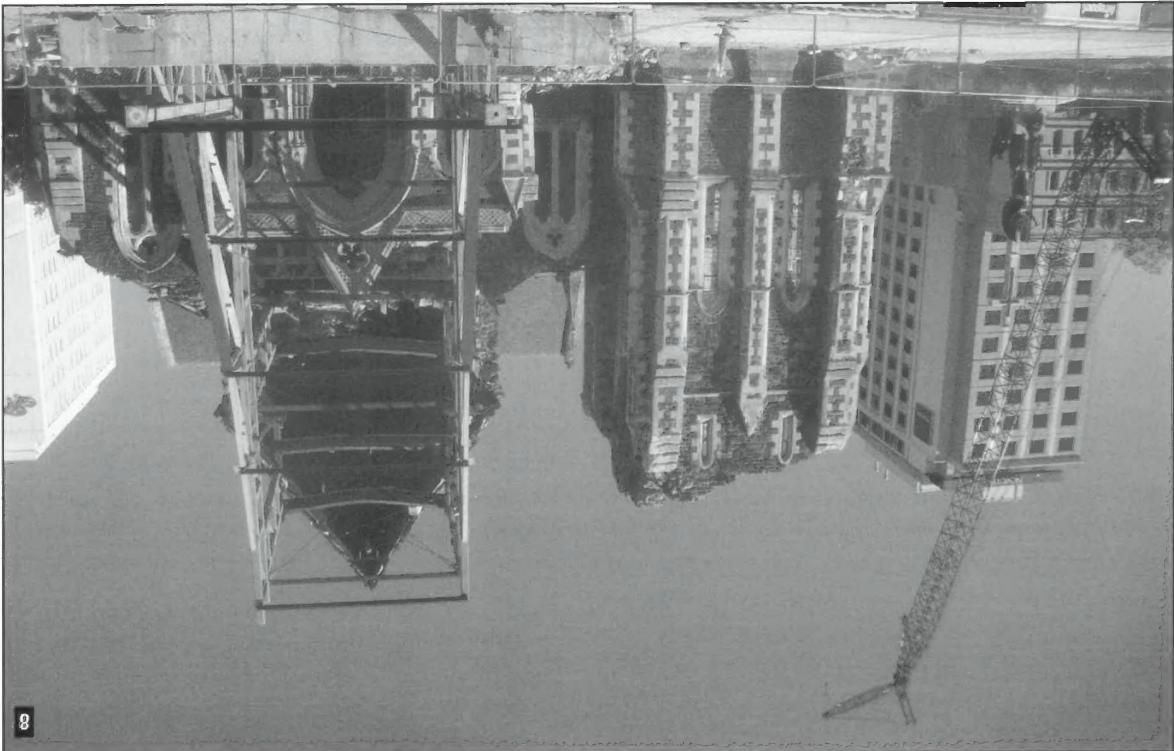
Some restoration news



Last year saw the completion of extensive renovation and refurbishment work at **St Columba's Cathedral** (6) in (London)Derry. Restoration work on the cathedral, which was in danger of severe structural damage, began in early 2010 thanks to key funding from the Northern Ireland Tourist Board worth £2 million. The 1641 building, the first Anglican cathedral to be built in the British Isles after the Reformation, has had disabled toilets provided and a reconstruction of car park facilities. It is said to be Northern Ireland's second most popular tourist destination. Our image is from www.visitni.com.

An unusual restoration project is under way in Preston, not on a building but a garment. The item in question, a chasuble, belongs to the parish of St John's Preston, not on a building but a garment. The item in question, a chasuble, belongs to the parish of St John's Preston, not on a building but a garment. The item in question, a chasuble, belongs to the parish of St John's Preston, not on a building but a garment.

Roman Catholic Church in **Poulton-le-Fylde** (7), and our image comes from their website (www-poulton-le-fylde-hcs.co.uk). Lancashire Museums Poulton-le-Fylde in Preston is restoring it through



reconstruction. However the decision has been taken to demolish Scott's cathedral and draw up plans for a new cathedral on its site. Despite this there are still attempts to stop the deconsecration and clearance of the site using legal and press opinion to insist the tubs will form the skeleton of the A-frame building, which timber, steel and concrete also used in the construction. The intention is to finish the building by Christmas. Designed to last at least 20 years, the 700-seat structure is the brainchild of Shigeru Ban, the Japanese architect responsible for temporary public buildings in quake-ravaged areas of Japan and Haiti.

Richard Gray, a spokesman for the Transitional Cathedral Group, said the temporary cathedral would cost up to NZ\$5 million (£2.6 million), most of which was already in hand. 'The transitional cathedral is a symbol of hope for the future of this city,' as well as being sustainable and affordable', he said. 'The cathedral is confident it will attract interest nationally and internationally, drawing additional visitors to the

The twisted and shattered Anglican Cathedral (8) at Christchurch has been discovered to be more damaged than first thought. The February 2011 earthquake cracked pillars, twisted walls, shattered stained glass, collapsed buttresses, fractured masonry and toppled the tower; and many aftershocks have further weakened what remained and finally toppled the rose window on the west front. Cathedral administrator manager Chris Oldham said the true extent of the damage became clear only after staff returned to the site. The pillars inside have cracked and the whole building is actually in quite a sad way, he said. The building is twisted. It has moved. The buttresses have stones coming out of them. If you look at the wall on the south side, you can see how the top half of it has moved one way and the bottom half of it has moved the other way. The stained-glass windows are all twisted and shattered on that side. When you go inside, the Oamaru stone blocks have come away from the wall and are loose and at unusual angles. The iconic building has seen public and press opinion split, with many people calling for a complete

Christchurch New Zealand Cathedrals -

Government will now expand the Listed Places of Buildings (which were previously exempted), the imposition of 20% VAT for alterations to listed After announcing in his 2012 budget statement the

VAT on alterations to listed churches



Catholics are thinking.

movement, but we have to have a good idea what soundings of what people think. It can't be a mass of the building. We will need to have a pretty big involved in some way in the final decision on the fate Bishop Jones said the wider diocese would be there. I'm prepared to wait as long as I have to, to get a full picture of what the actual position is. The information has been gathered in yet about what was satisfied he had all the relevant knowledge. Not all Jones said he would not make that decision until he several years of work by stonemasons. Bishop Barry demolition, rebuilding or mothballing, he said. The churches in the diocese. There were three options – Ryan said discussions leading up to a decision on

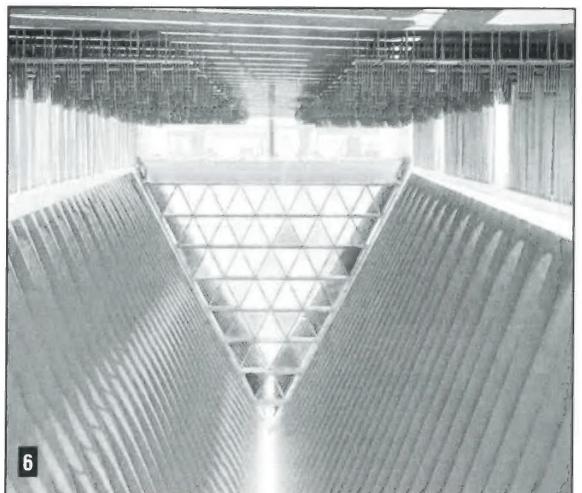
work had paused, but more material will be transported to the site in the months to come. There was a plan to remove more windows and a special plan in the context of it being just one of 20 damaged months away. The cathedral's fate had to be considered could well be at least six, and more likely twelve, whether the cathedral would be rebuilt or demolished

Ryan said discussions leading up to a decision on

new elements. Currently deconstruction used for any rebuild, they would act as a guide for the night, to a secret storage site. Even if they were not and unique elements, and on transporting material, cleaning and saving and numbering stones, windows demonstrating the damaged parts of the cathedral, on To date the diocese has spent about \$3 million

shelling contractors).

shows the cathedral in September 2011, held up by start of this year (10) (our image, by PhilBENZ, had certainty and could be fully functional at the Marian College, in the fall zone of the cathedral, Catholic Cathedral College and the site-sharing pressure had been on to make the building safe so Ryan said the Catholic authorities' silence about the old gasworks. Management Board chairman Lance unashamedly part of the city near to the railway and Anglicans, the cathedral being built in an originally the benefit of being in a far less public space than the largely from view. Of course, the Catholics have taken completely the opposite track and disappeared issue, showing unfolding in Cathedral Square. They have learned from the how not to handle a controversial space, the Catholics have obviously watched and commanded hundreds of column centimetres of about the fate of the Anglican cathedral has www.christchurchcathedral.co.nz.



expectations of both congregations and wider sustainable future by meeting the changing needs and building is only part of the story; it must also have a new programme will recognize that preparing a

There will be some changes in the focus as the last ten years with English Heritage.

places of worship fund it has run in partnership for the takes over the management of the Repair Grants for From April 2013 the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)

Repair grants for places of worship



churches.

Risk Register in regard to Listed Church of England Risk Register in regard to Listed Church of England allows English Heritage to complete its Buildings at resources and make the case for grant aid. It will also problems; and at local and national level, to prioritise the Church at national level, to understand the

The CCBD says the results will help dioceses and between September 2012 and March 2013.

The Cathedral and Church Buildings Division English church buildings. The work will take place national survey of the condition of all Church of grant funding from English Heritage to commission a

Church Fabric Condition Survey

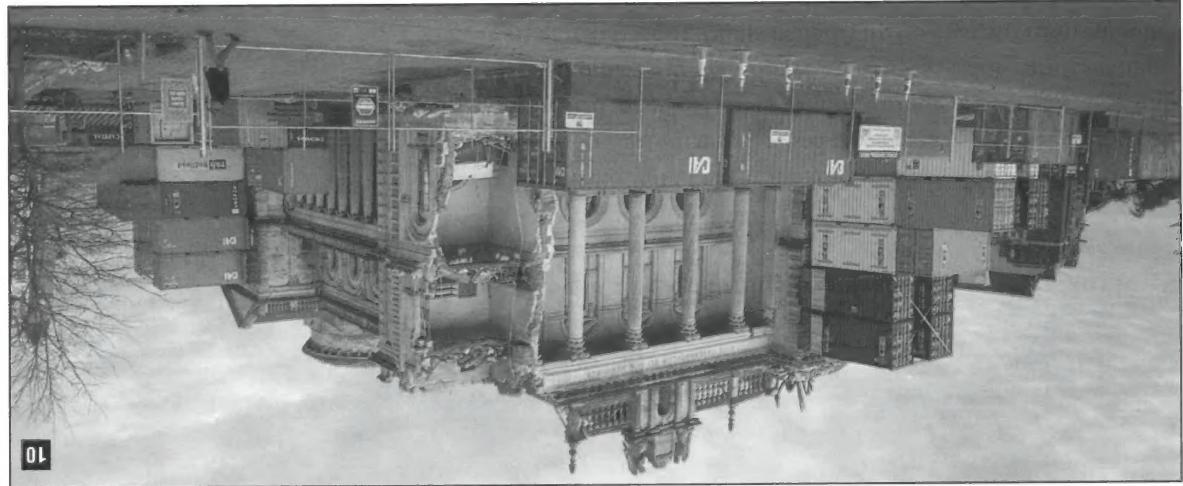


which she called the VAT duty. It can still be seen here <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EWgVKBKpEl>

Wakefield who posted a musical video to YouTube to the VAT plan came from the wife of the Dean of perhaps the most public (and original) objection heritage, tourism and local communities.

Perhaps the most important for are in listed buildings, and which are important galleries, theatres, libraries and community centres that said, it won't help the National Trust, all the museums, hit and Labour culture spokesman Harry Harman said alterations to other listed buildings would still be yourself. However, Ben Cowell of the National Trust, have dug yourself out of a hole into which you placed Mr Osborne, Can I congratulate you on the way you have welcomed the move. Mr Field told cathedrals, welcomed the planning authority for English chariman of the planning authority for English best to protect churches. Labour MP Frank Field, He listened to what we had to say, and has done his had been given to the impact of the tax rise, adding Chancellor had conceded that insufficient thought Church Commissioners in Parliament, said the Tory MP Sir Tony Baldry, who represents the maintenance'.

Tory MP Sir Tony Baldry, who represents the cent compensation for those repairs and recent years they have not been able to get 100 per the situation with repairs and maintenance where in alterations and should also go a long way to helping for the additional cost borne by [listed] churches for compensation, exactly as we promised in the Budget, for the next three years. That will be 100 per cent total fund will now stand at £42million, guaranteed grant per annum. George Osborne announced, 'The make available a maximum additional £30million of Worshippers Grant Scheme to include alterations, and



In the previous edition we carried a new feature – an account of a day's church drawing. My thanks go to Chris Stafford for his second article in the series, on an area of the country off the usual抽水輪 track.

As you'll see, the style is informal and relaxed – a chance for members to communicate their enthusiasm. Please get in touch with me (Phil Draper) if you want to share with members a recent day out visiting churches or you wish to tell us about one particular church which is a real favourite. My contact details are above.

The Society apologises for any accidental breach of copyright
in the images used here.

Finally . . . Thank you to all the readers who send me snippets of information between editions. Although not all of them make it to the final feature, often due to space constraints, they are appreciated and can be discussed on ChurchCrawling, an Email group at Yahoo (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ChurchCrawling/>). I can be contacted at churchcrawler@blueyonder.co.uk or by conventional means — Phil Draper, 10 Lambley Rd, St George, Bristol BS5 8QF. Please note that photos or cuttings sent to me can only be returned if accompanied by SAE. The views expressed in the article are not to be taken as those of the Ecclesiological Society itself.

Finally . . .

◆ ◆ ◆

In February 2012 the damaged St Mary's church in Charlbury, Oxfordshire. Freigheters had to create a fire break by sawing through a fifteen-century roof in order to save the building. A team of specialists cleared smoke damage; they worked until the end of April. Repairs to the roof and redecoration of the interior will follow. The damage was to the chancel roof, so as a temporary measure while the chancel is closed, the church has rotated the interior by 180 degrees, with the tower arch acting as a chance arch, in front of which sits the nave altar.

In August 2011 a 5.8 magnitude earthquake shook the mid-Atlantic coast of the United States causing significant damage to The National Cathedral in Washington, forcing it to close for safety checks and removal of damaged pinnacles. It has since reopened but repairs will run into millions of dollars. Also Baltimore was the Catholic cathedral basilica in damaged where cracks appeared in the dome. Repairs started in March 2012 and could take until Christmas. It was hoped the damage was mainly cosmetic rather than structural.

♦ ♦ ♦

As at present, it will be open to all listed places of worship and it will not be dependent on separate allocations according to listing.

In brief

communities. The new programme hopes to better meet these aspirations, and to encourage more people to get involved with, and take care of, these buildings. The new programme will be open for applications in February 2013. The Scheme will be worth a minimum of £25m each year. Urgent and high-level fabric repairs remain the priority. However, up to 15% of the overall project costs will be eligible to support works that encourage the sustained use of the building, like kitchens, toilets, heating and lighting systems and maintenance ladders. There will be a greater focus on providing opportunities for those within and beyond the congregation to participate and learn about the building – applicants will be able to request specific help in this area.



IVE BEEN GOING to Pembrokeshire for many years, my sister has lived there for fifty years, we've had many trips for family events and this year was no exception. Whilst there I like to fit in a few days exploring the local churches. Pembrokeshire churches are very different from my native East Anglian affairs. Indeed dating these very plain, simple buildings is a real challenge. In West Wales I exchange arches, arcades and clerestories for squat, tiny transepts and low waves designed to avoid the prevailing westerlies.

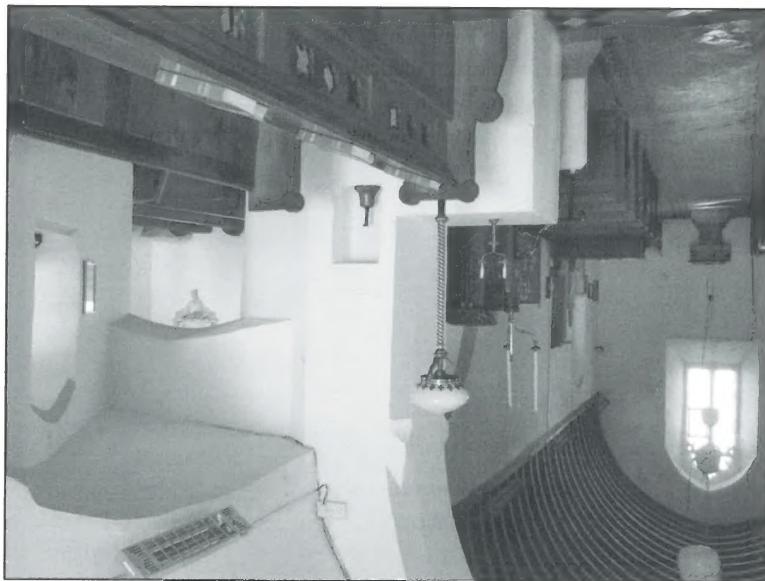
It's our last day churchhopping in Pembrokeshire, I can't drag the long suffering Mrs Stafford around churches every day (sadly). The forecast is good and I'm wanting to visit some of the most westerly churches in the country on the Marloes peninsula, close to the sea to the north.

Fig 1: Down by the river at Hwlldistion St Issels

Pembrokeshire – the Marloes Peninsula and above
Chris Stather

Following on from the day out in Northamptonshire in the last edition of ChurchGawker, Eccllesiastological Society member Chris Stafford takes us around some churches in one of his favourite parts of the world, Pembrokeshire in South West Wales.

*Fig. 3: One of the walk-through
squint's at Mawdwy's Castle*



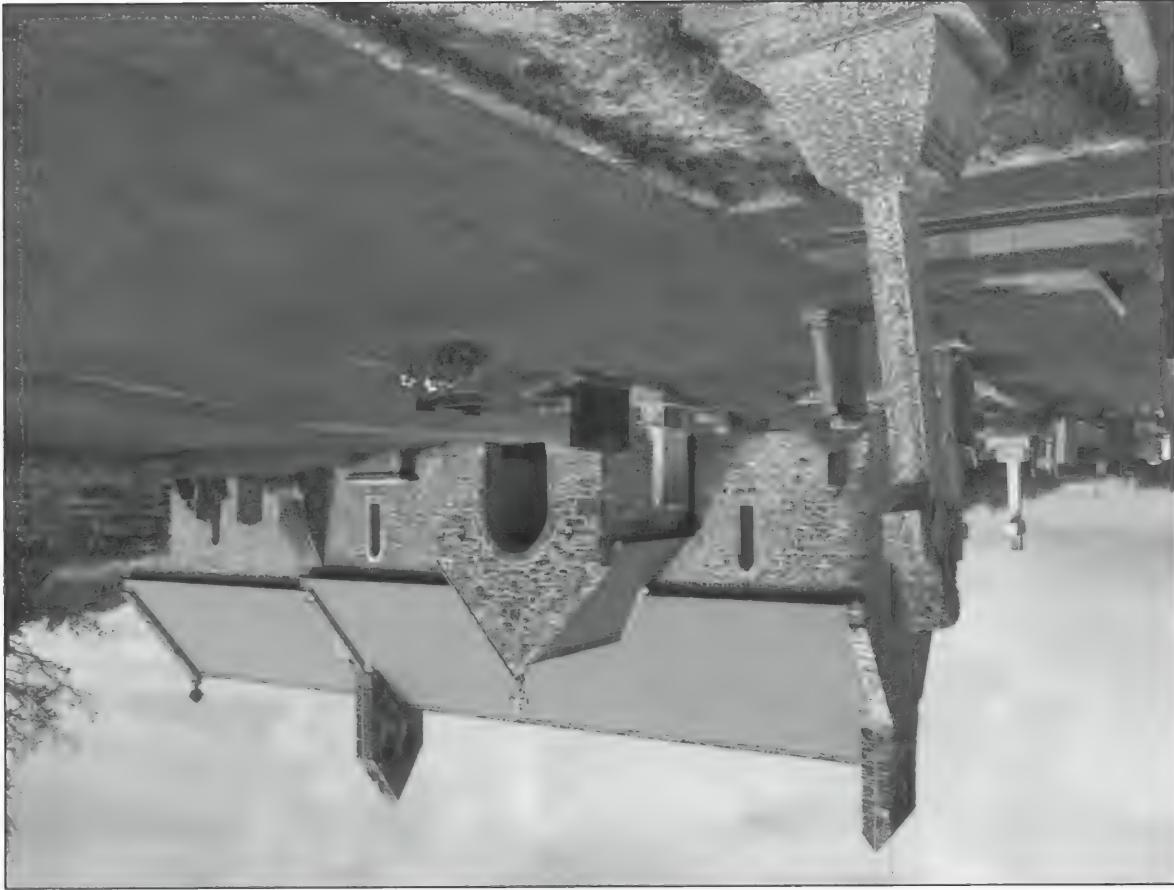
On the way to the peninsula we pass close to the market town of Hawardenwest and detour to visit the remote church of St Issel at Haroldston (Fig. 1) to the south of the town, close to the Western Cleddau. It has just a farmhouse for company and sadly is locked, without a keyholder here. It is very tiny and a peek through the windows reveals a very plain interior.

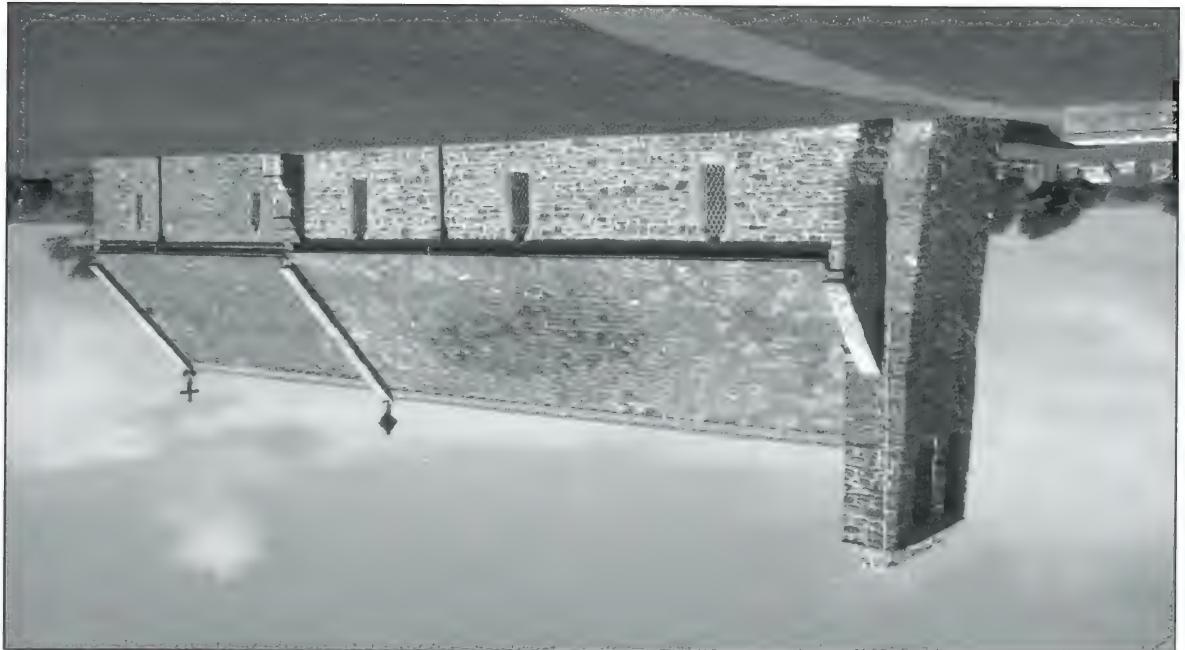
Fig. 2: The only proper tower of the day at Mawdwy's Castle

Fig. 4. SI Bridges church, with unusual pair of double bellcotes

A rock rebuilt exterior to the prominent church of St Peter Marlowes (Fig. 3), in a modest village exposed to the wild westery winds in the remotest spot. There are no more villages until you get to America; the road past the village leads to the tiny slipway where the tourist boats take the bird watchers and day trippers over to the bird sanctuary of Skomer Island. I was beginning to fear a day of inaccessibile churches so it was a delight to finally get inside. The church, restored by Pearson in 1875-7 has no tower, however it does

churchyard are the earthworks of the Norman castle. This church has a very attractive exterior with a typically tall slim Perpendicular tower, however heavily restored in 1878 and showing it. There is a keyholder listed, but the address is very vague, road signs are non-existent and despite going up and down the road twice we cannot see any name on any building that ties up with the information we have; so we are obliged to press on to the village which gives its name





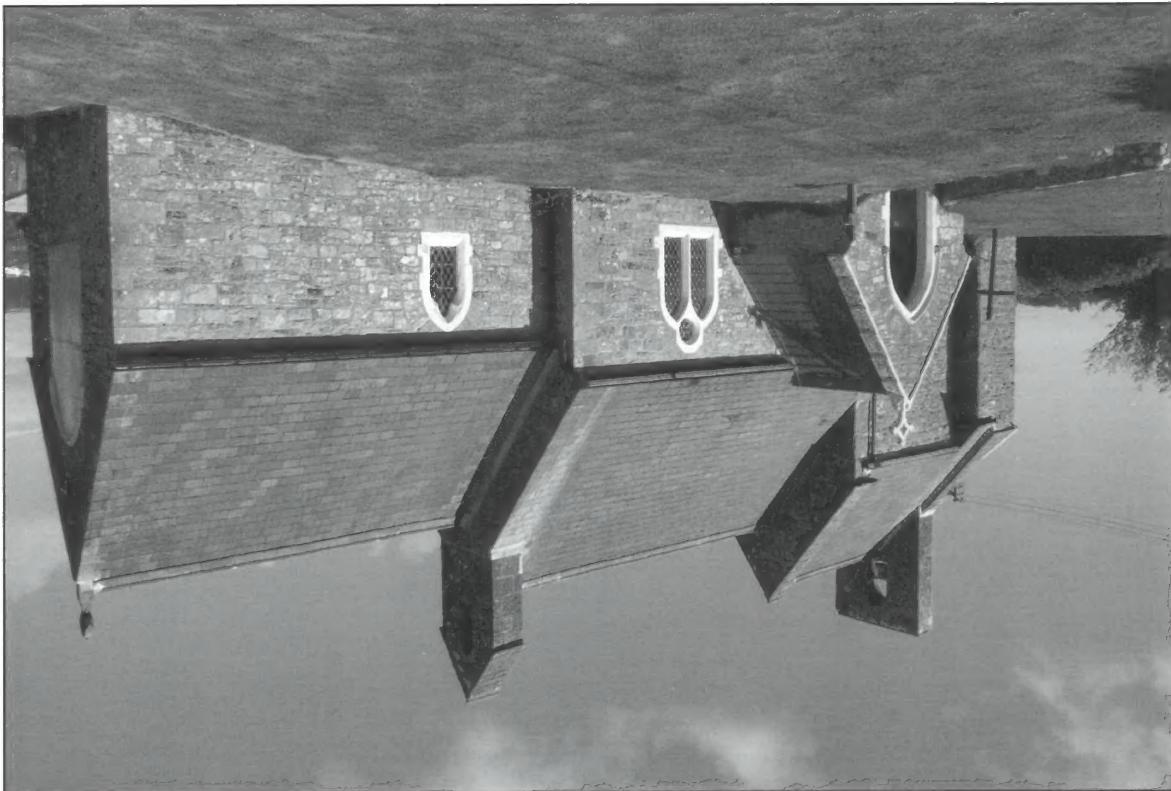
Victorian St Brides Castle perched higher up, overlooking the whole location, location! It stands almost at the sea's edge, with the fine St Bridge (Fig. 4). To quote a re-teller, this church is all location, To the north of Marloes is St Brides and the church of cause.

it was to put in to counteract the growing threat from the Baptist font alongside an interesting Norman font. The Buildings of Wales says interesting feature is the unusual "open baptistery", an immersion century) has a pointed vaulted roof, most attractive. The most have a fine brace of squatted transepts, plus the chancel (fourteenth

Fig. 6: Talbotmyr has a bellcote with a bather



Fig. 5: The unusual sculpture on the north transept altar at St Brides



The castle is one of those upmarket timeshare properties now, albeit. The castle was originally a seaside retreat for Lord Kennington. The church but was originally a simple affair without tower, but unusually with not one is the usual double bellcote, restored in 1868 by Charles Buckridge, who also provided the furnishings. The font is Norman and there is a small remainder of the medieval screen. One unusual feature is a modest sized semi-circular carving (Fig. 5), sitting on a small altar in the Nave. It allegedly shows the visit of Sheba to Solomon; most century. It allegedly shows the visit of Sheba to Solomon; most effigies in the North transept and also the church boasts some good interesting and carved with some flair. There are some very damaged glass. Outside there are a set of Celtic monuments to the Kennington clan. This was the best church of the day and a candidate for best one of our short break.

Whilst St Bride's was low down, almost by the water's edge, St Mary's church at Talbot Bay (Fig. 6) stands all alone on the cliff top, with fine views over the whole of St Bride's Bay and the nearby sea-side resort of Broad Haven. It has a very simple layout, just a long nave and short chancel, very rustic, restored in 1869 (nave) and 1893 (chancel). There is some interesting stained glass of 1974 by Frank Roper of Penarth.

in the churchyard is an attractive schoolroom of 1810. Continuing on returned to the porch that spent some time as a gatepost before being figure in the almost oblique Norman font. There is a very worn corbel and the almost oblique Norman font. This is a very worn Limgen Baker in 1876-7, with little of note inside, except an odd and another small and finely crude church, restored again by E. H. again to the church at Noltoun (Fig. 9) also dedicated to St Madoe Still following the narrow coastal road north we turn inland Norman font heading the list, but being open is a bonus, I suppose. along fourteen years later. Little in the way of redeeming features, a including the gashedy stone pulpit, with the grim reedos coming churches, restored heavily by E. H. Limgen Baker in 1883-5, from the nearby sea, this is one of those 'better on the outside' dedication to St Madoe of Fers. Set in a shallow valley and hidden Haroldston West (Fig. 8) and its church with an unusual Back to the sea at Broad Haven and to the north we come to Wondreful . . .

blue, inside as every scrap of fabric is a bright royal blue. century carved stone. The tower is vaulted and the church feels very chance arch. Inside there is some good glass and a very fine tenth-century carved stone. The tower is much truncated and now topped with a bellcote, and like St Brides there is also a second bellcote over the kept church. The tower is much truncated and now topped with a well Wattonwest (Fig. 7). Standing in a circular churchyard this is a well through Little Haven and turn briefly inland again to All Saints at Talbeny we leave the peninsula and drop down steeply

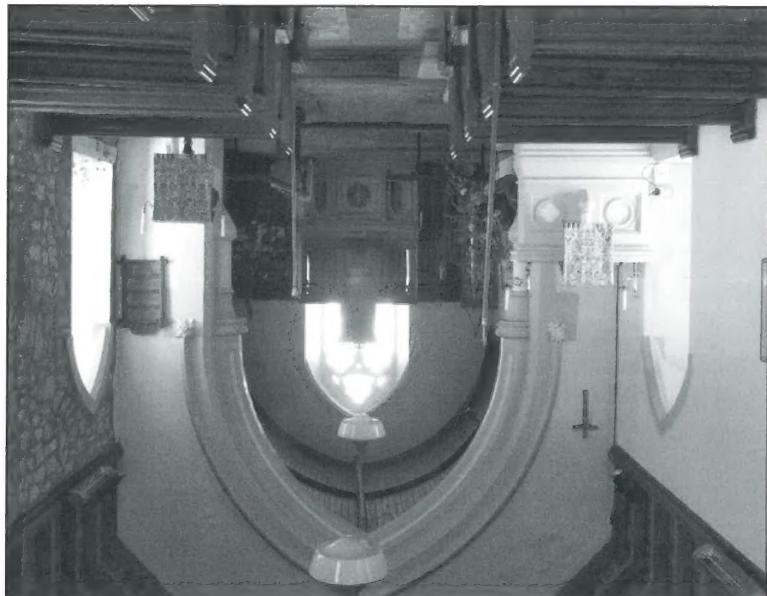
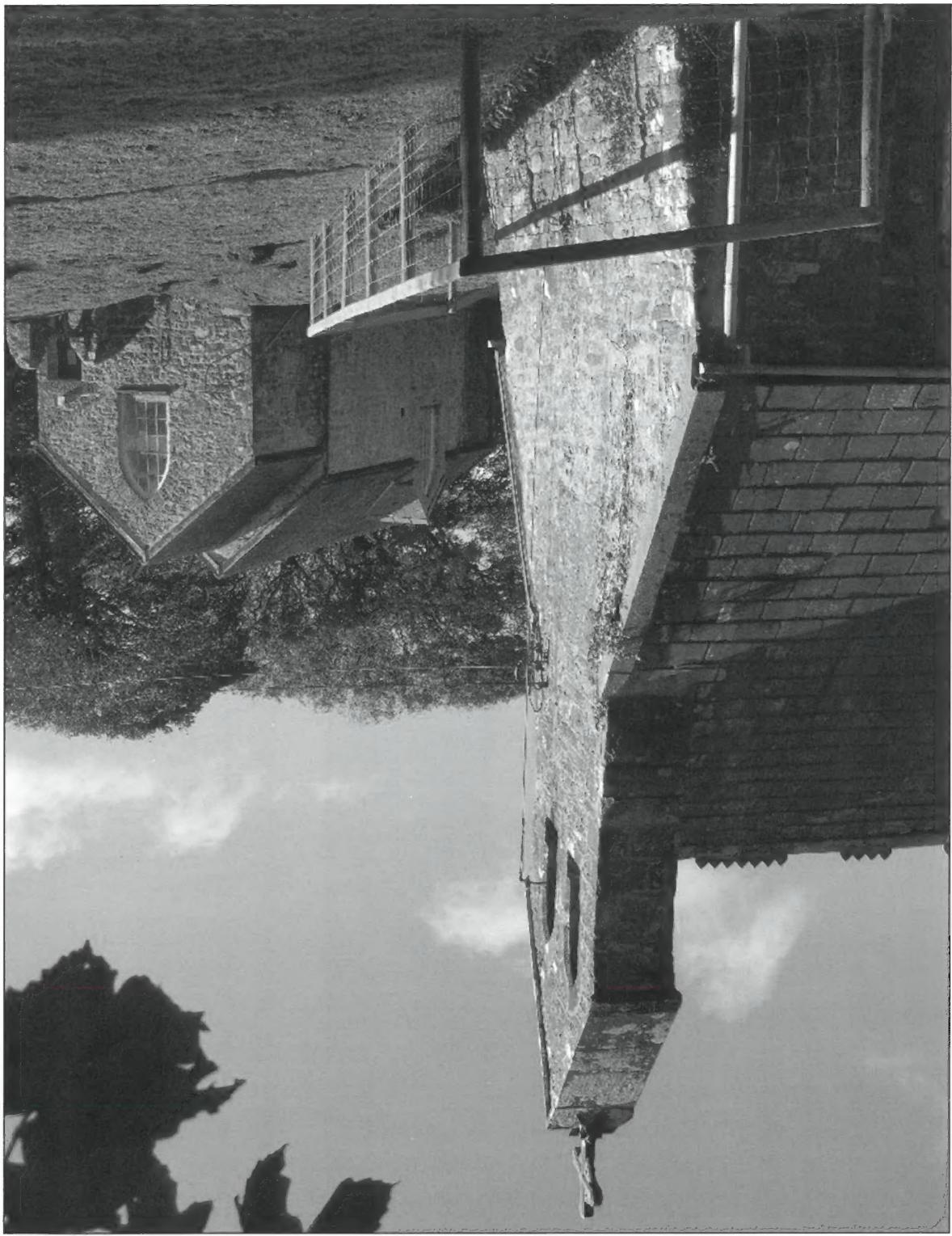


Fig. 8: Haroldston West's interior is a result of heavy restoration

Fig. 9: Nolton church and schoolroom, a happy pairing



All photographs taken by the author

Churches and wonderful scenery, what more can you want in a day out?
 Rocks, rocks and waves break noisily over the rocks.
 Able to inspect the pews and pulpits from 1907. Instead we take time out to relax on the beach watching the waves break noisily over the getting late in the day and the Gallery was closed, thus we were not in the local grey sandstone, this is now an Artists' Gallery, but it was originally built for the Congregationalists in 1858 and built to the nearby seaside village of Nolton Haven (Fig. 10), we pass a chapel.



Fig. 10: It wouldn't be Wales without one chapel - Nolton Haven